

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060624
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TO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, TU, GR

SUBJECT:SITUATION OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

REF: STATE 055993

FOR YOUR INFORMATION FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER, DATED
MARCH 3 TO DEPARTMENT (EUR/SE DIRECTOR) FROM BISHOP'S COM-
MITTEE FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT LETTER ALONG LINES REFTEL TEXT
CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT OF
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ISTANBUL:

A. QUOTE: I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 1,
1978 IN WHICH YOU RESPONDED TO THE ORTHODOX/ROMAN CATHOLIC
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BILATERAL CONSULTATION STATEMENT ON THE ALLEGED HARASSMENT
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY IN TURKEY. I AM PARTICU-
LARLY GRATEFUL FOR THE CONSULTATION THAT HAS BEEN, AND IS
CONTINUING TO BE, MADE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES CON-
SULATE GENERAL IN ISTANBUL WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS
ON THE ISSUES OUTLINED IN OUR STATEMENT. I WILL TRANSMIT
THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE SUBMITTED TO ALL THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATION.

B. THE BILATERAL CONSULTATION UNDERTOOK THIS UNUSUAL MEASURE AS A GESTURE OF FRATERNAL REGARD FOR OUR VENERABLE SISTER CHURCH OF THE EAST IN WHAT WAS REPORTED TO OUR CONSULTATION AS A GRAVE AND WORSENING SITUATION. THIS WAS DONE IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT POLICY OF THE FREE WORLD TO SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES BEARING ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

C. WITH RENEWED GRATITUDE TO YOU AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR YOUR SWIFT INQUIRY AND RESPONSE TO OUR STATEMENT OF CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE, I REMAIN SINCERELY, (SIGNED)
THE REV. J. PETER SHEEHAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR. END QUOTE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: RELIGION, HARASSMENT, DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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